

AUG 5 1964

Shipping

Defector Here From Burundi, Blames China Reds in Congo

By Martin G. Berck
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A young Chinese Communist diplomat who defected to the United States Embassy in Burundi May 26 arrived in New York yesterday and said the Red Chinese are using Burundi as a "stepping stone" to try to grab the Congo and all Africa.

The Chinese are "involved in quite a few" of the revolts now raging in the Congo, added Tung Chi-ping, 24, whose defection and later mysterious flight from Burundi to Rome caused diplomatic friction between the U. S. and Burundi governments.

Mr. Tung, who defected as assistant cultural attache within 24 hours after arriving at his first overseas post, is the second Red Chinese diplomat to flee to the U. S. He arrived at Kennedy International Airport from Rome, where he appeared Monday at the U. S. Embassy.

The U. S. Embassy in Bujumbura, Burundi, reported him missing a week ago, drawing an angry protest from the Burundi government, which had balked at earlier U. S. efforts to arrange his safe departure. Red China insists Mr. Tung was kidnapped.

Mr. Tung said at an airport press conference that he did not wish to say how he got to Rome because "my friends who helped me in Burundi would be harmed." He dodged a question whether the U. S. arranged the trip.

Asked about reported Red Chinese inspiration for the Congo revolts, Mr. Tung said the Chinese "do not care very much about Burundi," the small nation bordering the restive eastern Congo.

"What they care about is the Congo," he said. "Mao Tse-tung has said that if we can grab the Congo we can grab all Africa."

"When we were sent to Burundi we were instructed to maintain friendly relations to let them (the Burundians) allow us to use the embassy in Burundi as a stepping stone to the Congo." He declined to give specific instances of Chinese activity in the Congo but said he would make a detailed statement later.

The crew-cut, bespectacled young Chinese spoke to 50 reporters through an interpreter, Robert Loh, a former political science professor who himself defected from Red China in 1957 and is now employed by the U. S. Army on detached duty at the State Department. Besides Mr. Loh, Mr. Tung was met by State Department officers Robert Brown and Chao

Fu, 29, who became the first Red Chinese diplomat to defect to the U. S. two years ago. Mr. Chao, who was a security officer at the Chinese Embassy in Stockholm, now works for a ruler-manufacturing company in Middletown, N. Y.

Mr. Tung indicated that he had been planning to defect long before his arrival May 25 in Bujumbura. He had worked hard at his study of French and acted politically "very progressive" to get a foreign assignment so he could do so.

He spoke bitterly of life under the Chinese Communists, saying he had been pro-Communist as a schoolboy but had become disillusioned in 1957.

First, he said, many of his teachers were sent to labor camps as rightists during the intellectual repression that followed the 1957 "Hundred Flowers" period of free expression and criticism of government.

Later, he said, he and other students were forced to spend all their time on the futile "backyard furnace" iron and steel program. And during four years at the Shanghai Foreign Language Institute, starting in 1959, he and other students constantly suffered hunger, he said, while people in the countryside "ate the bark of trees."

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